

Fall 10-27-2002

Unlikely Romantics: Eugene Albulescu, piano

Lehigh University Music Department

Follow this and additional works at: <https://preserve.lehigh.edu/cas-music-programs>

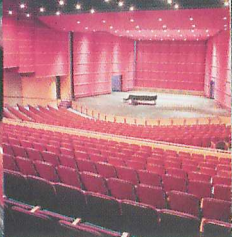


Part of the [Music Performance Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

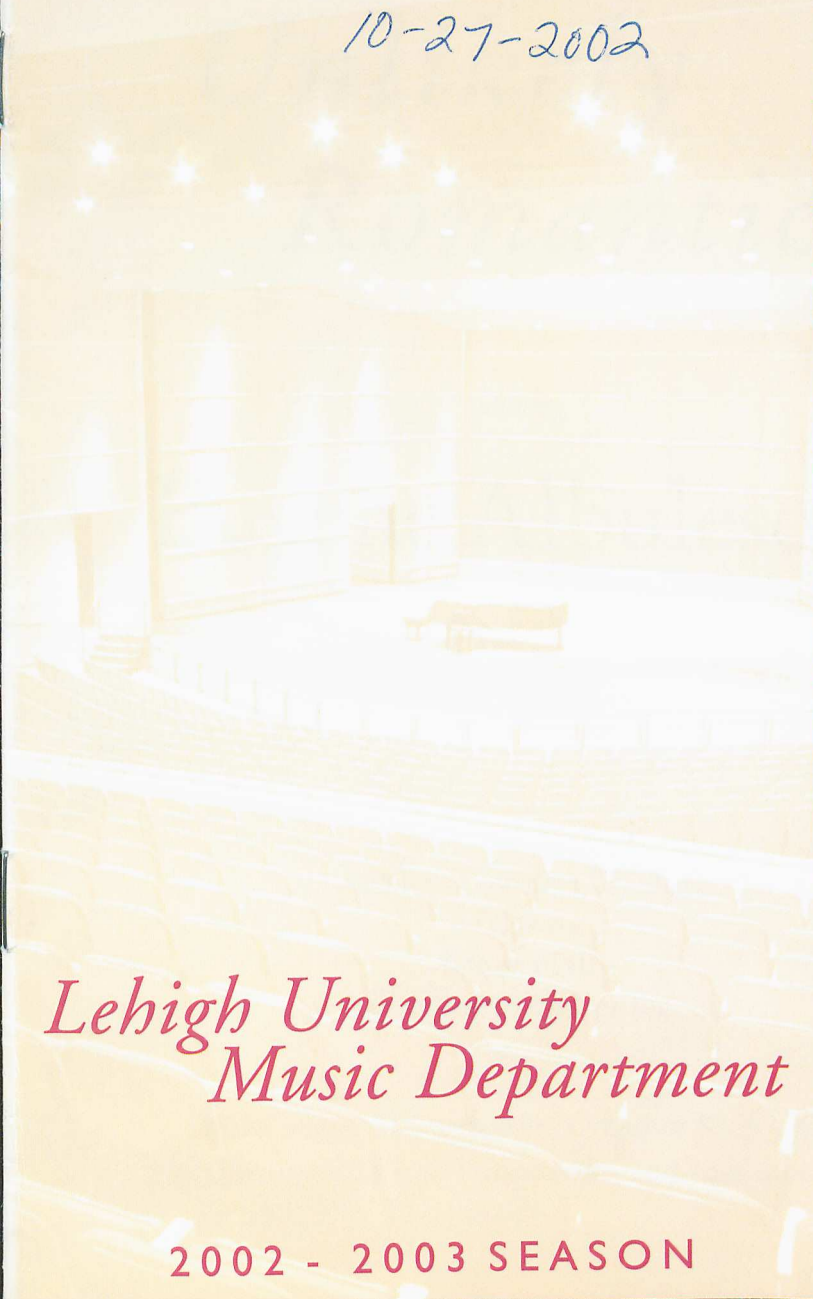
Lehigh University Music Department, "Unlikely Romantics: Eugene Albulescu, piano" (2002). *Performance Programs*. 427.
<https://preserve.lehigh.edu/cas-music-programs/427>

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at Lehigh Preserve. It has been accepted for inclusion in Performance Programs by an authorized administrator of Lehigh Preserve. For more information, please contact preserve@lehigh.edu.



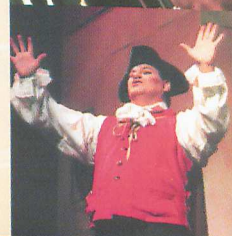
BAKER HALL • ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

10-27-2002



*Lehigh University
Music Department*

2002 - 2003 SEASON



*Lehigh University Music Department
presents*

Unlikely Romantics

featuring

Eugene Albulescu,
piano

Sunday, October 27, 2002

3:00 p.m.

Baker Hall

Zoellner Arts Center

Zeek! event supported by Creative Kids Club,
FleetBoston Financial Foundation and Just Born, Inc.

Welcome to Zoellner Arts Center!

We hope you will take advantage of all the facilities, including Baker Hall, the Diamond and Black Box Theaters, as well as the Art Galleries and the Museum Shop. There are restrooms on every floor and concession stands in the two lobbies. For all ticket information,

call (610) 7LU-ARTS (610-758-2787).

To ensure the best experience for everyone, please:

- Bring no food or drink into any of the theaters*
- Refrain from talking while music is being performed*
- Refrain from applause between movements*
- Do not use flash photography or recording devices*
- Turn off all pagers and cellular phones*
- Turn off alarms on wrist watches*
- Do not smoke anywhere in the facilities*

MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Professors - Paul Salerni, Steven Sametz, Nadine Sine (chair)

Associate Professor - Paul Chou

Assistant Professor - William Warfield

Lecturers - Eugene Albulescu, David Diggs

Adjuncts/Private Instructors - Eduardo Azzati, David Bakamjian, Helen Beedle, Lise Carlson, Christopher DiSanto, Debra Field, Linda Ganus, Brett Grigsby, Tom Guarna, Timothy Harrell, Tim Harrison, Carter Henry, Mark Hulsebos, Laura Johnson, Vic Juris, Robin Kani, Paul LaFollette, Marko Marcinko, Richard Metzger, Albert Neumeyer, Patricia O'Connell, Gene Perla, Irmgard Pursell, David Riekenberg, Timothy Schwarz, Susan Shaw, Carolyn Smith, Debra Torok, Eileen Wescoe, Andrea Wittchen, Larry Wright

Department Coordinator - Olga Jacoby

Libraries Coordinator - Linda Lipkis

Program Coordinator - Linda Ganus

~

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER STAFF

Managing Director - Elizabeth Scofield

Audience Services Director - Sandra Anderson

House Manager - Jacob Campbell

Ticket Services Manager - Leanne Bewley

Director of Development for the Arts - Susan Vengrove

Production Manager - Joshua Kovar

Director of Programs and Outreach - Deborah Sacarakis

Events Manager - Erin Bayliss

Scheduling Manager - Annette Stolte

Interim Lighting Coordinator - Guenter Wesch

Audio Coordinator - James Wildman

Assistant Audio Coordinator - Erik Lawson

Technical Director - John P. Stahr

Interim Costume Director - Kaitlin Witte

Head Stage Carpenter - James Jordan

Assistant Development Director - Kate Besterman

Senior Marketing Assistant - Jennifer Hunt

Junior Marketing Assistant - Candi Staurinos

Administrative Assistant to the Director - Cyndy Brinker

Development Assistant - Jovan Swann

PROGRAM

Legend No. 2, S175/2 (1863)
"St. François de Paul marchant sur les Flots" Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Romance oubliée S527 (1880)
En rêve S207 (1885) Franz Liszt

Prélude, choral et fugue M 21 (1884) César Franck
(1822-1890)

INTERMISSION

Islamey, oriental fantasy (1869 rev. 1902) Mili Balakirev
(1837-1910)

Piano Sonata in F major, Op.12 (1893)
I. *Allegro molto*
II. *Andantino, cantabile*
III. *Vivacissimo* Jean Sibelius
(1865-1957)

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Eugene Albulescu emerged on the international scene in 1994 when his debut CD was awarded the International Grand Prix Liszt, adding Albulescu's name to the list of winners which include Arrau, Brendel, Horowitz and Bolet. Since then Albulescu has performed worldwide, including concerts at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts in Chicago, BargeMusic in New York, the Purely Piano series in Auckland, New Zealand, Carnegie Hall in New York, as well as the International Liszt

Festival of the American Liszt Society.

Having been invited to the White House to perform for the Millennium celebrations, he was praised by the Washington Post for his "intensity, knowledge and technique." The celebrated *New York Times* critic Harold C. Schonberg hailed Albulescu's "power and infallible fingers of steel," declaring that "nothing anywhere has any terrors for him."

Mr. Albulescu has been featured nationally in several countries. Studio and live broadcasts have been undertaken for Radio New Zealand, South African Broadcasting Corporation, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, as well as NPR, which featured Albulescu on the nationally broadcast program "Performance Today." Albulescu's CD releases have been issued on ODE, Trust and Downstage labels, while his concerto engagements have included those with the New York Chamber Orchestra, the Romanian National Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Romania, Eugene Albulescu attended the George Enescu Music School in Bucharest, and emigrated to New Zealand with his family in 1984. At 16 he was the youngest competitor and winner of Television New Zealand's Young Musicians Competition. Albulescu continued his musical training with Edward Auer at Indiana University, where at 19 he was the youngest person ever to hold an Assistant Instructorship.

Albulescu's outreach to hundreds of American high schools in a program linking piano technology and creativity has earned him recognition from the media, including a cover story in *Clavier* and articles in *Fanfare*. He has taught on the music faculties at Moravian College and the Wellington Conservatory, and was featured as guest speaker at Eastman School of Music, Mansfield University, Vanderbilt University, Lincoln University and the University of Waikato. He is currently Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Practice at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.

Mr Albulescu's recent engagements have included concerts at Bargemusic and Carnegie Hall in New York, a guest performance at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, as well as return appearances with the Romanian National Philharmonic, where he performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1.

PROGRAM NOTES

The music of the nineteenth century encompassed a far wider range of expression than the Romantic ideal commonly extolled in our music history books. The idea for today's program was to offer some piano compositions which, albeit Romantic, nevertheless diverge in aesthetic from the romanticism of the "usual suspects" such as Schumann, Brahms, Chopin and Mendelssohn.

Liszt is also one of the "usual suspects" of Romanticism, but there are interesting twists in some of his music. In the case of *St Francis of Paola* (not to be mistaken for the Assisi bird-talker), whose miracle allegedly involved the crossing of a sea by literally walking on the water, the musical depiction is a far cry from what one imagines the person of the saint to have been. One almost cringes at the thought of St Francis hearing the representation of this legend with such wild, romantic sound effects, depicting the raging seas, his unshaken faith, his steadfast walk. I also included two much later works of Liszt, an old man at this time. Both of them — *Forgotten Romance* and *Dreaming* — seem to us to be odd pieces, since Liszt's tumultuous love-life was long in the past tense. This almost-priest, former "sex symbol," here views at a distance the old romantic days when Romantic meant romance as well.

The other works in this recital are by composers who used the idioms and styles of Romantic music only for their technique or musical language, but not for advancing the ideals of romanticism itself, as was the case with the "usual suspects" listed above (pun intended). Franck seemed to fit nicely in the first half of the concert, since his music in the Catholic Romantic tradition is a natural extension to Liszt's *St Francis*. A major organist of his era, Franck tried his best to make the piano sound like an organ. His *Prelude, Choral et Fugue*, a most wonderful almost "Trinitarian"-trilogy, exhibits Baroque idioms of fugal writing, chorale harmonies, as well as plenty of improvisatory modulations. (Debussy called the music of Franck, his composition teacher, "a constant modulation.") Add to that some interesting effects such as fugal entries in inversion, as well as the brilliant Quodlibet — a quasi-apocalyptic collapse of all elements at the end of the Fugue, when the fugue theme is superimposed on itself as a stretto, along with the Chorale theme, presented in the manner and figuration of the Prelude. These elements are combined with pianistic, romantic devices such as the big fat rolled chords of the Chorale, the textured continuation of the piano sound in the Prelude, and milking the piano for all of its harmonic colors.

While embracing the style of romanticism, the music of Sibelius and Balakirev stem from other traditions that were not directly part of it. Balakirev was one of the Russian "Mighty Five" composers, who, with the likes of Musorgsky, Borodin and company, set out to build a Russian tradition from the ground up, using Russian ethnic themes, in what became one of the most important nationalistic trends in music. (One uses "nationalistic" here as a positive term.) His oriental fantasy entitled *Islamey* was a work composed with the intent of being the most difficult work ever composed for the piano. Despite its less-than-noble purpose, one is struck by its beauty at times, as well as by the ways in which Russians regarded their Islamic nations (even then!) as part of the Russian heritage in some warped sort of way. The alternate coarseness and beauty of the work, stemming from this Islamic heritage, is not lost on us today.

Last but not least is the Sonata by Finnish composer Jan Sibelius. A forgotten gem, it uses romanticism for its stylistic features, and not as an end in itself. The three movements, orthodox and neo-classical in format, are packed with thematic and modal references to what we think must be the music of the North (for example, the Phrygian mode is used often both during the first and second movement). One of the things that come to mind every time I play the last movement is a description I once read of the last movement of the Sibelius Violin Concerto, which is, "polar bears dancing".

Eugene Albulescu
October 17 2002
(ed. N. Sine)

P.S.

Recording Notes:

The Liszt selections are available on a CD entitled *Albulescu Plays Liszt*, available through Lehigh University at the Zoellner Box Office. There are no plans to record the Franck and Balakirev commercially, although they may end up on my web site, if today's renditions and recordings prove worthwhile (however the web site is updated once a year, at most, despite my best intentions). The Sibelius Sonata has been issued by Ode/BMG and is part of a CD which also contains the *Hammerklavier* Sonata of Beethoven. Although I consider it my best recording, it is no longer available for purchase. After long legal dances, an arm and a few legs, I was able to procure the rights to my own recordings from BMG Classics and have been able to release them slowly. At this time I plan to release the Beethoven and Sibelius CD in about a year on my own label Downstage Recordings. Anyone who wishes to be on my mailing list and receive notification can write to me through my website: www.mostlypiano.com

Many thanks for all your support. E.A.

Friends of Zoellner Arts Center
2002-2003 Season

The Board of Trustees of Lehigh University gratefully acknowledges and recognizes the following alumni, friends, corporations and foundations for their generosity in supporting the annual campaign for the Friends of Zoellner Arts Center:

Presenting Sponsor

First Union

Sponsor

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
Alvin H. Butz, Inc.
Chaddsford Winery
Creative Kids Club
Linny and Beall Fowler
Lutron Electronics Company, Inc.
Morning Call
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Carl and Dian Petrillo
Target Select Cable Advertising
The Express-Times
The Rider-Pool Foundation
The Wood Company
Victoria and Robert Zoellner

Producer

Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker
Foundation
June and Leon Holt
Priscilla Payne Hurd
Nelson and Pat Markley
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
Pepsi-Cola Company
Tallman, Hudders and Sorrentino, P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Wagner

Maestro

Anonymous
Hank and Joanne Barnette
Marianne C. and William H. Bux '58
Reynard and René de Foxe
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard R. Dimmick
Gregory and Jean Farrington
Marlene and Arnan Finkelstein '58
FleetBoston Financial Foundation
Andrea and Oldrich Foucek
Carol C. Graff
Mr. and Mrs. William Hecht
Carl F. Henzelman, Jr. '45
Just Born, Inc.
Mary Ann and Daniel Kelemen '54
Pat and Tucker Lyons
Ruth and Charles Marcon
Elizabeth Scofield and
James R. Tanenbaum
Roland and Doris Sigal
Carol and Joseph Snyder '65
Dale S. Strohl
Bob and Anne Teufel
Steve and Julie Thode
Dave and Margie Williams

Artist

Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Acopian
Joseph R. and Michele B. Amato '76
Richard and Judith Aronson
Terri and Jim Bartholomew
Raymond and Elizabeth Bell
Peter Bennett and Jean Nevins
Bobb and Joan Carson
John and Carol Daniel
Bill and Anne DeCamp
Bonnie and Steve Devlin
Dick Durand and Jan Redinger
Nora Ann and Mohamed El-Aasser
Mark and Anke Ellis
Susan and Bob Gadomski
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Grigg
Martin P. Harmer and Andrea J. Pressler
Terry and Mary Jane Hart
Tom and Marsha Hersh
Bob and Betsy Holcombe
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Hoover, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Hertzberg
Theodore U. Horger
Yong and Sook Kim
Jane and Jerry King
Julia E. Klees MD, MPH
Mr. and Mrs. John Kotran
Joseph and Ichiko Long
Kira and Steve Mendez
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Mercy, Jr.
New England Foundation for the Arts
Ken and Mariel Petrini
Deborah Sacarakis
Mr. and Mrs. Abram Samuels
Linda and Walter Silowka
Don and Betty Smyth
Barbara and Charles Vengrove
Susan and Marc Vengrove
Ricardo and Martha Marchena Viera
Sharon and Ron Yoshida

Fellow

Mr. and Mrs. David Adams, IV
Anonymous
Bomboy Incorporated
Dr. Muriel M. Berman
Jeff and Carol Boerner
Paul D. Braden
Israel and Ruth Buck
Lynn and Mike Butts
Carla D. Chiappella, M.D.
Leah and Peter Cianfrani
Ann and Bill Clark '45
Martin D. Cohen Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Croll, Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. George J. D'Angelo
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Detweiler
Carol C. Dorey
Bertram and Joyce Elsner
Roberta and Jeff Epstein
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Erickson
Marjorie and Heather Faust
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Fetzer
Edward P. Foster
Lisa and Barnett Fraenkel
Linda and Bob Freedman
Jerry and Bette Friedenheim
Hannah Stewart-Gambino and
Giacomo Gambino
James Gore III
Elsbeth and Steve Haymon
Valerie and Richard Holt
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Howey
Brenda Johnson
Dr. Aoun and Teresa Kara
Rudolf and Dagmar Kroc
Stephen and Kathy Link
Charles and Marie Luther
Valerie A. Livingston and
Charles E. Lyman
Mina S. Mazdai
William F. Murphy
James M. O'Hara
Pennsylvania Blue Shield/
Highmark Company
Wayne and Ruth Pocius
Rosina Perin Popovice
Purc Magic Productions, Inc.
Ruth and Shelden Radin
Elizabeth Rich
Mr. and Mrs. Herman L. Rij
Jay and Jan Ruhle
Rudy and Elsie Schumacher
Nathan and Luz Schwartz
Adrienne and Terry Seymour
Frances S. Sidovar
Neal G. Simon and
Susan Kowalchuk
Michael and Phyllis Sinclair
Darbin and Debby Skeans
Charles and Christine Smith
Miriam R. Sursa and
Sandra C. Fickes
Hugh Sweeny
Alex and Karen Tamerler
Liz and Ferd Thun '56
Marilyn and Paul Wagner '57
Richard and Melody Weisman
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Wells

Robert and Virginia Williamson
Jerri and John Wood

Patron

Louise and Bill Banko
Jean Franz
Nancy and Michael George
E. R. Hertzog
Betty and Bill Hittinger
Joshua Kovar and
Deborah E. Andrus
Joan A. Kraft
Margaret Plympton
Barbara and Andy Senchak
Pamela and Laurence Tarica
Janet Tucker
Robert and Lee Wei
Karen and George White

Associate

Kathleen and Graham Briggs
Madeline and Bob Brown
Dr. and Mrs. P.J. Del Vecchio
Katherine and Robert E. Donatelli
Deborah A. Haight
Kenneth D. Hendrix and
Patricia K. Girke
Peggy and Jim Hobbs
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hunsicker
Peter Jakubowski
George F. Jaman and
Mary Paltadakis-Jaman
Jacob and Maria Kazakia
Arthur E. King
Mr. and Mrs. Garrison H. McClure
Eloise W. Miller
Joan Moran
John and Anne Ochs
William and Nora Paltadakis
Julie and Kline Pepper
Heinz G. Pfeffer
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Powell
Denise and John Sale

David and Harriet Schaper
Faith and James Snyder
Mimi and Bill Stanford
Dr. and Mrs. Phil Tighe
LaVerne M. Williams
Eleanor and Joseph Workman
Sherri Yerk-Zwickl and
William Zwickl

Friend

Elizabeth Abrams
Dr. Nadeem V. Ahmad
Sandie Feinman Antar
Maryanne Barone
Lydia W. Beaumont
Donald and Lygia Bellis
Mary Sue W. Benken
Harriet and Marius Bressoud
Wayne and Sue Cady
Marianne E. Chabot
George and Carolyn Conard
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Danjczek
Don and Jean Davis
Robert and Barbara Dedio
Lars and Julie Eng
Gerald C. Fornwald
William and Lois Frederick
Vincent J. Gentlicore
Gillian K. Girvin
Muriel Glickman
Rose Lee Goldberg
Timothy R. Gorski
Deanna P. and
Richard W. Granville Jr. '54
Judith Guise
Jim, Sue, Callie and Prenna Harlan
David L. Heine
James and Linda Henry
Anita L. Hermany
Walter and Joanne Leiss
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Lieberman
Willard and Margaret Marshall
Drs. George and
Carolina McCluskey

Dr. Marilyn McDonald
Edward G. Mittal
Ronald and Catherine Mordosky
Donna Neff
Nicholas Noel, III
George Ortwein
Harriet L. Parmet, Ph.D.
Ken and Cathy Peoples
Donna Pidcock
Mary T. Pongracz
Sharon Pratt
Bonnie and Greg Puzio
R. E. Reusser
Dr. David Rich
Eugenia Y. Robson
Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Rosenthal
Judith and David Ross
Bob and Judie Rossell
Mr. and Mrs. John Rossi
Adam and Penny Roth
William and Ruth Rusling
Dianne E. Schellenberg
John W. Segraves
Jeffery J. Semak
Fred and Ginny Shunk
Blu Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith
Diane Stanczak
John W. Stemler
Michael and Judy Stoner
Bruce Swan
Froy and Dick Thompson
Dr. Adriaan and Maria Van Gaalen
David V. Voellinger and Lona M. Farr
George D. Watkins
Ben and Ellie Weinberger
Lynn and Philip Weinzier
Mervin C. Werst P.E., '51 EP
Mary Evelyn Wilson
Maryanne C. Yankovich
Jill and David Yannarell
Judith, Jessica, and Kayla Young
Mrs. Edward A. Zouck

List complete as of October 9, 2002.

Errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of Cynthia Folkers, Assistant Development Director for Zoellner Arts Center, at 610-758-5322 or 800-523-0565 or email cynthia.folkers@lehigh.edu

Lehigh University Music Department

2002-2003 Season

September

8 at 3 pm
22 at 3 pm
29 at 3 pm

Faculty Recital: Timothy Schwarz, violin
Faculty Recital: Debra Field, soprano, and friends
Faculty Recitals: Lise Carlson, soprano / Helen Beedle, piano

October

6 at 3 pm
18, 19 at 8 pm
25, 26 at 8 pm
27 at 3 pm

Nurtured by Music, Food, and Love: A Suzuki Benefit recital
Philharmonic Orchestra: *The Tempest and Other Tales*
Choral Arts: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony; new work by Sametz
Eugene Albulescu, piano : *Unlikely Romantics*

November

2 at 8 pm
9 at 8 pm
10 at 3 pm
17 at 2 pm
17 at 4 pm
24 at 3 pm

New York Jazz Rep Orchestra: *A Night at the Apollo*
Jazz Ensemble, Band and Combo: jazz old and new
Fusion Fest: *Brazilian Jazz*
Senior Recital: Tae Sakamoto, piano
Senior Recital: David Dunham, saxophone
Wind Ensemble: *Fiesta!*

December

2-6 at noon
7 at 8 pm
8 at 4, 8 pm

Noon Recitals: solo performers and chamber groups
Philharmonic Orchestra: Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and more
Choral Arts: Christmas Vespers at Packer Chapel

January

24-25 at 8 pm,
& 26 at 3 pm

The Music Man: Meredith Willson's Tony award-winning musical;
Laura Johnson, director and Paul Salerni, conductor

February

9 at 3 pm

Jazz Faculty: an afternoon of jazz

March

2 at 3 pm
23 at 2 pm
29 at 8 pm
30 at 3 pm

East Winds Quintet, with Eugene Albulescu, piano
Junior Recitals
Choir: *Renaissance Masters and More*
Senior Recital: Katherine Fay, piano

April

4 at 8 pm
10 at 8 pm
11 at 8 pm
12 at 8 pm
13 at 3 pm
14-16, 21, 22
25, 26 at 8 pm
27 at 3 pm
28 at 8 pm

Jazz Ensemble, Band and Combo: big band classics plus new works
Symphonic Band: spirited works for a spring evening
New York Jazz Rep Orchestra: premiere of *Water Suite*
Philharmonic Orchestra: Concerto Competition winner plus others
Fusion Fest: *Music of Weather Report*
Noon Recitals: solo performers and chamber groups
Choral Arts: Britten's *War Requiem*
Wind Ensemble: *When America Was Young*
LUVME: student composers concert